

IDEOLOGICAL AND POLITICAL EDUCATION OF THE PEOPLE

THE BASIC TASK FOR POLITICAL PARTIES

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The aim of all political work should be to develop consciousness and raise ideological level of the people, and also to engender in them the ability to work constructively and creatively. They should also be taught to manage and organize public life.

Education of the people is a truly noble cause designed to attain comprehensive development of their personality and to enable them to struggle against social oppression. Education promotes advancement towards the bright future. Political parties, therefore, must commit themselves to this cause.

The people are the masters of the means of production. They, along with the industrial workers and peasants, play the decisive role in accelerating economic progress and changing the whole way of life. As such, the government of the country should be run according to the will of the people.

Previously politics has been the sole preserve of the moneyed classes, the feudalists, big businessmen and industrialists. They had manipulated the public mind through deceit and falsehood. In the next elections, true representatives of the lower and middle classes should adorn the assemblies so that the dire problems of the people are focused.

The party leaders and party activists should convey to the people the full impact of ideological conviction and political experience by their personal example.

The essential conditions for political education to be effective are: (1) raising the level of literacy and education of people by participating in the campaign for elimination of illiteracy. The new life could not be built without knowledge. The first and foremost condition is raising the level of literacy and education of the people. So long as there is illiteracy in the country, it is difficult to speak about political education. Thirst for knowledge grows as the level of education rises. New life and society could not be built without

knowledge. (2) setting up political education centers in all districts, cities and towns and equipping them with radio, television and newspapers and libraries. (3) arranging lectures on current affairs and issues confronting the people, especially the economic issues. (4) telling people the truth about political and economic situation and giving them true information about the various facts and figures pertaining to society and government. (5) arranging employment and raising the living standards of the people and their cultural level.. (6) imparting compulsory military training to all able-bodied person between the age of 25 and 35. (7) publishing of bulletins by political parties for their workers and the public at large. (8) imparting moral education on the basis of universally accepted moral principles so as to instill love for the motherland, love for work, self-discipline, sense of responsibility to the task assigned, devotion of ones energies and skill enthusiastically and selflessly to public welfare and nation-wide struggle for progress.

The qualities in people which ensure their conscious participation in developing the society are: creative attitude, high standard of discipline and readiness to help others, high moral standards, assisting the oppressed against the oppressor and an irreconcilable attitude towards corruption in any form.

Prerequisites for Political Education

Historical experience has shown that the political education of the people is an important factor in the progressive transformation of society, and that political education cannot be successful unless political parties and their governments systematically create the essential conditions for it.

The success of ideological and political work depends largely on the level of daily supervision by party organizations. These must see to it that the party's ideas are fully understood by every member. The party's objects should accord with the interests of the people. The party decisions should be timely, logical, explicit and concrete. Political parties should approach the most backward, the most underdeveloped members so as to be able to speak to them, to draw closer to them, to raise them steadily and patiently to the level of democratic consciousness.

In order to be an educator and carry on political work successfully, the ideological worker himself must have an understanding of the party's policy and be able to interpret correctly the process and events taking place at home and abroad. The party worker should present a definite truth in a way as to make it most convincing, most easy to digest, most clear and descriptive and most strongly impressive.

The success of the party supervision lies in its close bonds with the people. To teach the people by learning from them should be the cardinal rule for the political activists.

The main feature of our age-old heritage of feudal culture is fascist personality. Tendency to force others think and behave the way one likes has become an accepted norm for the adults of the society. Those placed in the position of privilege and responsibility expect their subordinates to obey them blindly. Cadres of the political parties are no exception. They too have been nurtured in feudal and semi-feudal milieu. This is one of the serious hazards we have to cross on our way to emancipation. People have strong likes and dislikes. They are biased or prejudices. Hatreds have developed due to imbalanced approaches and irrational thinking of individuals or sections of the society. Our society has to be freed from the evil influences of the feudal culture. In addition, political sovereignty of the people and equal opportunities of securing benefits from the country's natural resources should be guaranteed. People's participation in the process of governance and development of the country must be assured by devolving power to the local level. Thus the maturity at the cultural level of the individual and the society will have to be combined with dull political awareness and democratic participation of the people in managing and improving the affairs of the country. The involvement of the people in social and political activities and in the administration of the country heightens their intellectual level.

Only those will survive in politics that recognize the need to raise the consciousness level of the masses as well as to organize the society fruitfully on positive, creative and truly democratic lines with help of enlightened and party cadres.

Much attention should be paid to the development of literature for children and young people. Fresh books should be written for

them keeping in view the modern requirements of education, the achievements made in the field of science and technology and the moral value that sustain developmental activities. Libraries should not only loan books but also advise readers on literature and arrange meetings with poets, artists, scientists and experienced political workers. Libraries and clubs should be opened in every town to feed the people's growing need for information. Centers for imparting political education should be established at the district level containing a library, a reading room and reference books.

Clubs play a big role in educating people and in promoting their political and cultural enlightenment. The clubs could conduct evening gatherings devoted to questions and answers on topical subjects and lectures and discussions on major events in the life of the country.

Forms and Methods of Ideological and Educational Work

The process of changing the psychology of the people, who have been under the demoralizing influence of an exploitative system, is always very complex. The main task is to raise the intellectual level of party members. They should be able to understand and analyze national and international events objectively, and communicate with people in jargon free language. Such members will help political parties strengthen and steer the society towards a stable democratic culture.

Economic instruction constitutes a component part of political education of the people. It is closely related to production, affecting it directly. It also helps people, both urban and rural, to analyze the effectiveness of their labour.

An indefeasible law of political information and of all ideological activity of a party is truthfulness and honesty. Tell the people the truth about the political and economic situation, however bitter it may be; tell the people openly and honestly about all the difficulties and hardships which are inevitable in the course of construction of the new life. It is therefore, important that political activists should be trained to participate in dialogues and exchange of views in such a way that helps people analyze information correctly. Engaging in direct discussion to prove others wrong and to present oneself as a self-styled educator only antagonizes people.

The Main Aspects of Education

A society is always shaped by its individuals. Therefore, when a political party seeks involvement of the masses in construction of a new society, it must clearly define the qualities to be cultivated among the individuals.

Discipline and conscientiousness is imperative for educational work. Work is the backbone of the life of a human being and society. The main requisite for the triumph and consolidation of a polity is to create conscious work, discipline and conscientious attitude towards work.

The exploitative system develops a slave psychology in the workers and destroys their personal dignity. This system leads to anarchy, idleness and disorder. If an individual is respected regardless of his class, cast or creed and rewarded according to quality and quantity of his productive activity, he will take more interest in his work and find ways to improve it.

Workers' education is a broad concept. It includes: fostering genuine interest in work, encouraging thriftiness, raising the level of professional skill, organizing mutual assistance and healthy competition, developing in an individual the ability to find his own talent and have a courage to take initiatives with a creative attitude, cultivating the desire to devote all energies and abilities to the benefit of the motherland enthusiastically and selflessly, above all the growth of a tolerant and democratic personality.

Planning and Supervising Consciousness Raising Work Among the People

It is always useful to suggest time limits to accomplish a particular task. Greatest importance must be attached to the work of mass organizations like trade unions, women and youth organizations etc. They should be rendered full support and assistance and, through them, closer contacts with the people should be maintained.

Decisions of a political party affect the life of the masses. It is, therefore, a great obligation of political parties to adopt scientific, logical, explicit and concrete decisions on the right time. A political party must keep looking for additional reserves of political activists which could be used in order to accomplish one task or other, analyze the cases of current shortcomings and outline ways of eliminating them.

Party workers must attempt to find a way to work in both urban and rural areas in an attempt to find a way to the mind and heart of the people and should not be daunted by prejudices and even by insults. They must learn to communicate with comparatively less developed members of the society and raise their socio-political consciousness steadily and patiently.

Planning is the first stage of organizational work and provides the groundwork for gaining and accumulating experience in administration. Planning must meet two basic requirements: it has to be realistic and optimal. Realistic planning means bringing to the fore those tasks which are vitally important today and for the solution of which necessary conditions already exist. Optimal planning is the selection of ways and means which would be most efficient and make it possible to draw effectively on the creative energy of the people. Thus the plans of political and educational work are a practical guide to action. A vivid example of such planning in action could be the struggle to eliminate illiteracy and then raise educational level of the people.

Principles of Organization

When a political party is in power it must have a firm control over the execution of the adopted decisions, plans and tasks. Party control consists in:

- a. prompt checking of the implementation of measures and plans;
- b. delivery of reports by party members of the fulfillment of assignment;
- c. analyzing and reviewing the work done;
- d. studying public opinion on certain major political or economic moves made by the party and the government;
- e. above all, the party must ensure the participation of people in the work of uplifting the intellectual level of the masses

Party members must keep a low profile. They should not be allowed to assume the role of self-styled leaders who are supposed to exercise any control over the people. They should remain humble, polite and confident during their contact with the masses.

Political parties should hold regular seminars. They should set up information centers at various places for giving training to the

party cadres by providing correct information on current events without any bias or prejudices, refreshing their political knowledge and exchanging ideas. The political education of the youth is of utmost importance. Attention should be centered on questions relating to the satisfaction of young people's growing intellectual requirements. To educate the youth is to create a reliable reserve of workers for political parties and a generation of builders of new life.

Contact with the people must be strengthened and the conditions of the people's lives understood properly. To win the people's support a political party should explain to them any new move in its policy. The success of a political party lies in its bonds with the people. The party cadres must keep a regular contact with the people, understand their problems and learn from their experience.

It must be remembered that the people are the masters of the means of production and that the building of a society based on socio-economic justice, wherein people are empowered to participate effectively in the governance of their country, would enable the people to reach the height of culture and civilization within the shortest possible period. In order to attain that position, citizens should be well-educated and able to understand the laws of social development, appraise world development from a modern angle, and the best use of their energies and knowledge for the good of their country. Education, on creative and investigative lines, promotes advancement towards a bright future.

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